

Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7525

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA UNN

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PLEASE PASS SUBSTANCE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO MR. SAM VASTOLA,
PRESIDENT ESSO AFRICA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BDIS MO

SUBJECT: ESSO AFRICA MEETING WITH MOROCCAN COMMERCE MINISTER

1. FURTHER OUR TELEX OF YESTERDAY, FOREIGN MINISTRY ON
JANUARY 27 SUGGESTED TO DEPUTY CHIEF MISSION THAT BECAUSE OF
EXTREMELY BUSY GHISSASSI SCHEDULE WHICH HAS MADE IT DIFFICULT
FINALIZE RABAT VISIT, ESSO REP MAY IN INTEREST OF TIME WISH
TO PRESENT NEW PROPOSAL TO MINCOMM SECRETARY OF STATE MOUSSA
SAADI.

2. DURING LUNCH WITH SECSTATE FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS BELKHAYAT
ON 28TH, SECSTATE RAISED ESSO CASE WITH ECOUN, CONFIRMING
MOROCCAN DESIRE TO SEE MATTER SETTLED SOON. ASKED ABOUT FONMIN
SUGGESTION THAT MOUSSA SAADI RECEIVE ESSO REP INSTEAD OF
MINISTER, BELKHATAY SAID THAT HE AWARE OF SITUATION AND
TIGHT GHISSASSI SCHEDULE, ASSURING THAT THERE WAS NOT RPT NO
INTENTION TO DOWNGRADE GOM INTEREST IN SETTLEMENT. GHISSASSI
TOTALLY INVOLVED WITH ROUND OF ACTIVITIES RELATED TO MOROCCO'S
TIGHT FISCAL SITUATION AND SOME DELAY MAY OCCUR BEFORE HE
AVAILABLE. SECSTATE LEVEL CONTACT SEEN AS LOGICAL WAY OF
GETTING ON WITH RENEWED NEGOTIATIONS.

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3. AS INITIATIVE TOWARDS GETTING TALKS OFF TO GOOD START, BELKHAYAT RECOMMENDED EMBASSY REMAIN ASIDE DURING INITIAL STAGES AS SIGNAL ESSO TEAM WILLINGNESS TO DEPOLITICIZE RENEWED NEGOTIATIONS.

4. WE INTERPRET THESE COMMENTS AS INDICATIVE OF SUBSTANTIAL INTERMINISTERIAL COORDINATION ON MATTER AND RECOGNITION THAT GOM MUST BE PREPARED TO RECIPROCATATE ESSO FLEXIBILITY. ACTING UPON HINT THAT DEPOLITICIZING TALKS WOULD GIVE GOM NEW CHANCE FOR FLEXIBILITY, SUGGEST VASTOLA OR ROOT SEND DIRECT WIRE TO HIS EXCELLENCY MOUSSA SAADI, SECRETAIRE D'ETAT, MINISTERE DU COMMERCE, QUARTIER ADMINISTRATIF, RABAT, REQUESTING APPOINTMENT FOR EARLY MEETING AT HIS CONVENIENCE. HOPE, OF COURSE, YOU WILL CALL ON AMBASSADOR DURING VISIT AND CONTINUE TO KEEP US ABREAST OF DEVELOPMENTS.
NEUMANN

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